

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. **(Previously presented)** A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

executing a contract with a producer of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal to implement a production practice and collect associated production practice data, wherein:

a term of said contract comprises the producer providing the production practice data,

the production practice data is collected according to a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, and

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production.

semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills;

converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors using a processing device;

converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units for a transferring thereof using a processing device, each said emission reduction unit being adapted for use as at least one of an environmental offset, a credit, and an allowance; and

assigning a unique identifier to each emission reduction unit, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of (i) a geographical reference for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol; wherein said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the emission reduction unit.

2-5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol includes at least one of guidance on measurement methodologies, indirect measurement criteria, modeling, baseline definitions and measurements, IPCC Global Warming Potential (GWP) conversion factors to enable the equivalent comparison of GHG carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), and individual greenhouse gas performance factors.

7-9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected production practice data comprises available external information source data regarding the producer, and wherein the external information source data comprises at least one of site physical data, cropping maps, soil maps, watershed maps, topographical maps, geographical reference data, site permit data, regulatory compliance, overhead photography, infrastructure placement, dimensional data, and commercial performance practices.

11. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein a term of the contract comprises the producer warranting the production practice.

12. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 11, wherein warranting the production practice comprises at least one of releasing legal liability for the data collecting and confirming the accuracy of the data collecting with respect to known production practices.

13. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected production data comprises on-site data regarding the producer and the on-site data comprises at least one of

on-site data supplied by the producer,

on-site data collected by an assessment team,

on-site data confirmed by an assessment team,

on-site data entered into a pre-selected template, and

on-site data electronically transmitted to a data center.

14. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 13, wherein the template provides for input including at least one of questions relevant to the protocol, a commercial standard, environmental compliance, non-conformance, and business needs.

15. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 14, wherein the on-site data entered into the template further comprises at least one of time and geographical reference information.

16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 13, wherein the pre-selected template forms a part of at least one of an electronic data instrument, and wherein the electronic data instrument provides for data entry and transmission thereof.

18-19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected production practice data is commercial performance practice data comprising at least one of production throughput and production capacity.

21-22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to converting the production practice data to environmental data, said production practice data is confirmed by measuring at least one of the integrity and completeness of the production practice data, and testing data eligibility for processing the production data.

24. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 23, wherein data eligibility testing includes at least one of testing for non-conforming practices, reviewing contract terms for the producer, reviewing pending environmental actions for the producer, comparing production practices documented through the collection of data to the baseline practice, and 3rd party auditing of the production practice data.

25. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising comparing the production practice data to standards of performance and identifying production practice compliance to said standards through labeling.

26. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 25, wherein the labeling includes at least one of identifying a government approval, conferring a regulatory shield, identifying the source of conditions conferring a compliance, and identifying a source of environmental removal.

27. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-selected conversion factors are selected from the group including reducing, avoiding, or mitigating GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, and providing soil erosion credits.

28-31. **(Canceled)**

32. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units, a first portion of the environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, and a portion of the reserve pool is committed to at least one of mitigating delivery risk, and mitigating permanence risk.

33. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 32, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising aggregating the production practice data from a plurality of producers, wherein the plurality of producers includes at least one common production practice.

36. **(Canceled)**

37. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the environmental data is registered by at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the effective environmental data, recording the registering, designating ownership of the effective environmental data, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

38. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the unique identifier assigning includes at least one of a protocol related identifier, vintage, geographically referenced coordinates, specific emission reduction accounting, and encryption.

39. **(Canceled)**

40. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 37, wherein the transaction monitoring includes at least one of monitoring a sale, transfer, exchange, and retirement of the environmental emission data.

41. **(Canceled)**

42. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the converting at least a portion of the environmental data comprises choosing a registry jurisdiction.

43-44. **(Canceled)**

45. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising selling the emission reduction unit.

46. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 45, wherein selling the emission reduction unit comprises pooling the unit with a plurality of emission reduction units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

47. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 46, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

48. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring title of at least one of the emission reduction units for offsetting at least a portion of the environmental emissions.

49. **(Canceled)**

50. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating a plurality of emission reduction units from a plurality of producers of a controlling entity for offsetting environmental emissions of the controlling entity.

51. **(Canceled)**

52. **(Currently amended)** A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

collecting production practice data associated with a production practice of a producer of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal, said collecting being responsive to a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, wherein

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills;

the production practice data is converted to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors using a processing device;

the environmental data is assigned a unique identifier, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of (i) a geographical reference for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol, wherein said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the environmental data; and

title to the environmental data is transferred to an entity other than the producer.

**53-55. (Canceled)**

**56. (Previously presented)** A method according to claim 52, wherein a first portion of the environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, a portion of the reserve pool is committed for mitigating delivery risk, and a portion of the reserve pool is committed to mitigate permanence risk.

**57. (Previously presented)** A method according to claim 56, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

58. **(Canceled)**

59. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 52, further comprising establishing a pool of wherein the environmental data is converted to at least one environmental reduction unit and pooled with a plurality of emission reduction units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

60. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 59, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

61. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 52, wherein the environmental data is converted to an emission reduction unit and further comprising transferring title of the emission reduction unit for offsetting at least a portion of an environmental emission.

62. **(Currently amended)** A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

converting production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors using a processing device; wherein,

said production practice data relates to a production practice and is collected, responsive to a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, and

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills;



assigning a unique identifier to the environmental data, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of (i) a geographical reference for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol, wherein said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the environmental data; and

registering at least a portion of the environmental data for commercial use thereof.

63. **(Canceled)**

64. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 62, wherein the collected production practice data is commercial performance practice data comprising at least one of production throughput and production capacity.

65-66. **(Canceled)**

67. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 62, further comprising comparing the production practice data to standards of performance and identifying production practice compliance to said standards through labeling.

68. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 67, wherein the labeling includes at least one of identifying a government approval, conferring a regulatory shield, identifying the source of conditions conferring a compliance, and identifying a source of environmental removal.

69-70. **(Canceled)**

71. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 62, wherein, prior to converting the production practice data to environmental data, a first portion of the environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, and a portion of the reserve pool is committed to at least one of mitigating delivery risk, and mitigating permanence risk.

72. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 71, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

73. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 62, wherein the registering comprises at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the environmental data, recording the registering, designating ownership of the environmental data, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

74. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 62, wherein the unique identifier assigning includes at least one of a protocol related identifier, vintage, geographically referenced coordinates, specific emission reduction accounting, and encryption.

75. **(Canceled)**

76. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 73, wherein the transaction monitoring includes at least one of monitoring a sale, transfer, exchange, and retirement of the environmental emission data.

77. **(Canceled)**

78. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 62, further comprising converting the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units and selling at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units.

79. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 78, further comprising establishing a pool of wherein selling at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units comprises pooling said portion with a plurality of emission reduction units and accessing the units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

80. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 79, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

81-83. (Canceled)

84. (Currently amended) A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

collecting production practice data associated with production practices of a plurality of producers, said production practices yielding at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal, said collecting being responsive to a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, wherein,

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills;

converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors using a processing device;

assigning a unique identifier to the environmental data, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of (i) a geographical reference for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol, wherein said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the environmental data; and

registering the environmental data for commercial use thereof.

85. (Canceled)

86. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 84, wherein the collected production practice data includes on-site data comprising at least one of

on-site data supplied by the producer,

on-site data collected by an assessment team,

on-site data confirmed by an assessment team,

on-site data entered into a pre-selected template, and

on-site data electronically transmitted to a data center.

87. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 86, wherein the template provides for input including at least one of questions relevant to the protocol, a commercial standard, environmental compliance, non-conformance, and business needs.

88-93. **(Canceled)**

94. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 84, wherein, prior to converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units, a first portion of the environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, and a portion of the reserve pool is committed to at least one of mitigating delivery risk, and mitigating permanence risk.

95. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 94, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

96. **(Canceled)**

97. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 84, wherein the registering comprises at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the effective environmental data, recording the registering, designating ownership of the effective environmental data, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

98. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 84, wherein the unique identifier assigning includes at least one of a protocol related identifier, vintage, geographically referenced coordinates, specific emission reduction accounting, and encryption.

99. **(Canceled)**

100. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 84, further comprising establishing a pool of wherein the environmental data is converted to at least one environmental reduction unit and pooled with a plurality of emission reduction units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

101. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 100, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

102. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 84, further comprising transferring title of the environmental data for offsetting at least a portion of the environmental emissions.